

Figure 1 shows a traditional arrangement for electronic business transactions between an end-user and a product/service provider. In such a traditional arrangement, a user's printer 102 is connected to the user's computer system, television, or set up box 104, normally via a dedicated printer cable. The user's printer is under the control and command of the user's computer for printing materials that are downloaded to the end-user's printer 102 from the user's computer system 104 via the printer cable (not shown). The printer driver 108 residing in the user's printer 102 and the printer driver 106 residing in the user's computer system 104 communicate directly with each other to perform a print job. In this traditional arrangement, the user's printer 102 does not directly communicate with an online product/service provider, such as an airline company, computer system 110. Moreover, printing usually requires the end-user's involvement. As a result, the materials from the product/service provider to be printed on the end-user's printer 102 have to be downloaded first to the end-user's computer system 104, via the communication channel 112, and then downloaded, by the end-user from the user's computer 104, to the end-user's printer 102. This process has several disadvantages.

Please rewrite the paragraph on page 3, lines 3-14 as follows:

Although some systems have been proposed wherein a product/server provider communicates printing data directly to the end-user's computer, these systems have limited printing capabilities. For example, U.S. Patent No. 5,319,562 discloses a system wherein the end-user computer system includes an end-user's printer and a postage printing program for directing the end-user's printer to print address and postage on envelopes and labels. In this system, however, the end-user has to have a postage printing program and a postage meter to keep track of postage purchased by the end-user and the postage applied to mail pieces by the end-user's printer. Moreover, the end-user has to use his or her computer to direct his or her printer to print the postage. In addition, the system and method of this patent does not print an original stamp, like one directly purchased from the United States Post Office.